

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently Amended) ~~The latching assembly of claim 6~~ A vacuum actuated

automatic door latching assembly for unlocking a door of a delivery vehicle, comprising:

- a. a latch operatively associated with the door for latching the door, the latch movable between the lock and unlocked positions;
- b. a pneumatic actuator operatively associated with the latch for causing the latch to move between the locked and unlocked positions;
- c. a vacuum line connected to the pneumatic actuator and adapted to connect to a vacuum source associated with the vehicle;
- d. a control valve disposed between the vacuum source and the pneumatic actuator for controlling the activation of the pneumatic actuator; and
- e. a biasing device engaging the door and biasing the door towards an open position;
- f. wherein the device includes a spring; and
- g. wherein the spring is adapted to extend between a stop disposed on the door and an area adjacent the door, and wherein the position of the spring is adjustable with respect to the door.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The latching assembly of claim 7~~ A vacuum actuated  
automatic door latching assembly for unlocking a door of a delivery vehicle, comprising:

- a. a latch operatively associated with the door for latching the door, the latch movable between the lock and unlocked positions;
  - b. a pneumatic actuator operatively associated with the latch for causing the latch to move between the locked and unlocked positions;
  - c. a vacuum line connected to the pneumatic actuator and adapted to connect to a vacuum source associated with the vehicle;
  - d. a control valve disposed between the vacuum source and the pneumatic actuator for controlling the activation of the pneumatic actuator; and
  - e. a biasing device engaging the door and biasing the door towards an open position;
  - f. wherein the device includes a spring;
  - g. wherein the spring is adapted to extend between a stop disposed on the door and an area adjacent the door, and wherein the position of the spring is adjustable with respect to the door; and
  - h. wherein the spring is at least partially contained within a sleeve.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Canceled)
14. (Canceled)
15. (Canceled)
16. (Canceled)
17. (Canceled)
18. (Canceled)
19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The delivery vehicle of claim 10~~ A delivery vehicle having a vacuum actuated latch assembly for latching an access door to a load compartment, comprising:

- a. an engine for powering the vehicle;
- b. a compartment for receiving and holding a load;
- c. a sliding door for permitting access to the compartment of the vehicle;
- d. a vacuum actuated latch assembly for automatically unlocking the door,  
the vacuum actuated latch assembly comprising:
  - i. a latch operatively associated with a door for locking the door;
  - ii. the latch being movable between a locked and an unlocked position;
  - iii. a pneumatic actuator operatively associated with said latch for causing the same to move between the locked and unlocked position;
  - iv. a vacuum line connected to the pneumatic actuator and extending to the engine of the vehicle such that the engine of the vehicle serves as a vacuum source for the pneumatic actuator;
  - v. a control valve disposed between the engine and the pneumatic actuator for controlling the actuation of the pneumatic actuator;
  - vi. a biasing device for engaging the sliding door and biasing the sliding door towards an open position, the biasing device being spaced from the latch assembly and operable independently of the latch assembly, and wherein the biasing device includes a spring disposed adjacent the sliding door and positioned with respect to the sliding door such that when the sliding door assumes a closed

position the spring engages the sliding door and is compressed by  
the sliding door, and wherein when the latch is moved from the  
locked position to the unlocked position the spring forces the  
sliding door to open; and

- e. wherein the spring is at least partially housed within an elongated sleeve that is fixed adjacent the sliding door; and wherein the spring is secured to a threaded bolt that is held with a threaded support such that the threaded bolt can move back and forth axially within the threaded support so as to adjust the position of the spring with respect to the sliding door.